



PARTNER COUNSELING AND REFERRAL SERVICES (PCRS) FACT SHEET

WHAT IS PARTNER COUNSELING AND REFERRAL SERVICES (PCRS)?

Partner Counseling and Referral Services is a prevention program sponsored by the Michigan Department of Community Health – Division of Health, Wellness and Disease Control (MDCH/DHWDC). The goal of this program is to reduce the spread of HIV by helping HIV-infected individuals to confidentially notify their at-risk and needle-sharing partners of their exposure. At no time will providers disclose identifying information about the HIV-infected client to the at-risk partner.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW AS A PHYSICIAN?

Physicians are required by law to notify known at-risk partners of their exposure to HIV or relinquish that responsibility to their local health department (M.C.L. 333.5131 of 1992).

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW AS A COMMUNITY PARTNER?

Michigan Law requires all Michigan Department of Community Health supported HIV/AIDS counseling, testing and referral sites to facilitate the notification of any identified at-risk partners by referring them to the appropriate local public health department for prompt follow up (M.C.L. 333.5133).

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTNER COUNSELING & REFERRAL SERVICES?

- **Reduce the spread of HIV among at-risk populations**
- **Clarify the patient's role in notifying partners.**
- **Provide partners with confidential notification.**
- **Help at-risk partners gain early access to HIV counseling/testing, medical evaluation, treatment, and other prevention services.**

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN PCRS?

By contacting your local health department or the Michigan AIDS Hotline at 1-800-872-2437 or go to www.malph.org to find your local health department.

